

12.300 INVESTIGATION OF BOMBS & BOMB THREATS, DISPOSAL OF DANGEROUS WAR SOUVENIRS & EXPLOSIVES

Reference:

Procedure 12.143 - Explosive Ordinance Detection
(EOD) Canine Operations

Purpose:

To ensure the safety of all citizens and public safety personnel in the area of a suspected explosive device.

Policy:

Officers will immediately respond to and thoroughly investigate all incidents of bomb threats and suspected explosive devices. Explosive Ordinance Detection (EOD) canines will conduct a thorough search of the premises when deemed necessary.

Information:

During large public events (i.e. Riverfest, sporting events at stadiums, etc.) police officers should pay particular attention to packages that are unattended or packages in suspicious areas.

Procedure:

A. Bomb Threats

1. Immediately advise Police Communications Section (PCS) after receiving a bomb threat.
 - a. PCS will dispatch a beat car and a supervisor to the scene.
2. Before reaching a minimum 1000 feet (about two city blocks) from the bomb threat scene, notify PCS via Signal 35. Turn off all radios, mobile phones, Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) and all other types of electronic transmitting devices.

3. The first police officer on the scene will consult with the person in charge of the property concerning evacuation. The person in charge of the property must decide to evacuate immediately or wait for a search before evacuation.
4. The on-scene supervisor will request an EOD canine to respond if there is an evacuation or if there is a need to search. A search of the premises can occur with or without evacuation.
 - a. When possible, use a citizen volunteer who is familiar with the premises to assist in the search.
 - b. The EOD canine handler may assemble a search team consisting of another police officer(s) and/or citizen volunteer. There will be a maximum of three persons on a team.
 - c. When possible, place officers at entrances and exits of buildings to stop and investigate suspicious individuals leaving the building.
 - 1) When possible, advise individuals entering the building of the situation.
 - d. Instruct personnel involved in the search not to touch suspicious objects or anything attached to them. Also instruct them not to interfere with the EOD canine and handler during the search and remain behind the handler.
 - e. List the areas searched on the Form 311G, Confidential Investigative Notes General.

B. Locating Suspicious Items or Bombs

1. If a police officer or a citizen identifies a suspicious package, a police supervisor will determine if an EOD canine is to be utilized.

2. When finding suspicious items or bombs, the on-scene supervisor will evacuate all civilians at least 600 feet away from the suspicious object.
 - a. If it is impractical to evacuate citizens 600 feet away from a suspicious object or bomb inside a building, evacuate a minimum of three floors above and below the object.
 - b. Officers should be aware there is always a possibility of secondary devices.
3. Call PCS from a landline telephone at least 600 feet away from the object and request the Fire Department Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit (EOD). If the Fire Department EOD Unit is on scene, a designated team member will direct them to the location of the device.
 - a. PCS will notify:
 - 1) The Fire Department dispatcher who will request the Fire Department EOD unit respond to the scene.
 - 2) Criminal Investigation Section.
 - 3) Intelligence Unit.
 - 4) Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (684-3354) if a destructive device is located or an explosion occurs.
 - 5) The Night Chief, when applicable.
 - 6) Utility Services: CG&E, Water Works, Telephone Company, if necessary.
4. Assign officers to a mobile patrol ensuring all electronic transmitting devices within 1000 feet of the object are off.

- a. Advise news representatives not to broadcast within 1000 feet of the location of the object.
- 5. Seal off the perimeter with an adequate number of police officers.
- 6. Wait for the Fire Department EOD Unit.
- C. Bomb Disposal
 - 1. Upon arrival, the ranking Fire Department supervisor will assume command of the operation and the responsibility for the disposal of suspicious items or bombs.
 - a. Only Fire Department EOD personnel will operate within 300 feet of the object. They may request a larger or smaller evacuation area and will determine if military aid is necessary.
 - 2. The Police Department will provide support personnel for area security and marked police vehicles for escorting the bomb disposal vehicle.
 - a. Fire Department EOD unit will determine the proper number and order of vehicles for bomb escorts.
- D. Reports
 - 1. The on-scene supervisor will ensure a Form 301, Cincinnati Police Department Incident Report, and any other necessary reports are completed such as:
 - a. Making False Alarms, 2917.32 Ohio Revised Code (ORC), (Bomb Threat) when there is no evacuation.
 - b. Inducing Panic, 2917.31 ORC, (Bomb Threat) when evacuation occurs.
 - 2. The on-scene supervisor will submit a Form 17 to the Police Chief whenever an explosive device is found or an explosion occurs.

E. Dangerous War Souvenirs & Explosives

1. Whenever a police officer discovers or a citizen turns over any war souvenirs, live ammunition, dynamite, percussion caps, fuses, or other explosives and devices, the following will apply:
 - a. The citizen will be advised he is relinquishing all property rights to the items surrendered, so as to prevent requests for the Department to deactivate and return souvenirs.
 - b. Each item will be considered potentially dangerous. Do not handle any explosive device(s) found.
 - c. An inquiry will be made as to whether anyone has attempted to deactivate the device, and this information will be forwarded to the Fire Department upon arrival.
 - d. If an officer discovers an explosive device on-scene, follow the same procedure as with bomb threats, Sections A. through C. of this procedure.
 - e. If a citizen brings an explosive device to a police facility, an officer will:
 - 1) Immediately turn off police radios.
 - 2) Per Fire Department EOD unit, if the item is a war souvenir, it is safer to get the item outside and limit access to it until they arrive. An alternative is to evacuate the building and wait for EOD to respond.
 - 3) If an item appears to be a bomb or is suspicious, immediately evacuate the building.
 - 4) Notify PCS from a phone line to have the Fire Department respond to the scene.

- 5) Upon arrival, the ranking Fire Department supervisor will assume command of the operation and the responsibility for the disposal of suspicious items or bombs.